

I ask that you all please consider that this bill should not be pushed through without having an adequate opportunity for the public to testify.

I would also like to you to please consider removing juvenile offenders from SORA during these changes, especially first time offenders. Also someone with no criminal record.

When a juvenile is convicted of a CSC they get sent away for rehabilitation. The whole point of rehabilitation is to correct the behavior and give them a chance to change and become a contributing member of society. The problem is that SORA says they must register for life which is now a life time punishment. Having to register for life is a big deal for juveniles and can have a mental impact on juveniles along with depression and should be looked into and considered heavily in your decision making. These are kids that made a mistake and need a chance to learn from it. Currently a 15 year old teen that commits a CSC crime and ends up on the registry has it worse than someone older that knows better. An 18 year old that commits their first CSC crime can go to the HYTA program, have their record clean and not have to register. How is that fair? The 15 year old is too young to qualify for HYTA so they get punished harder. For a teen, having to register has many impacts on their life that they don't even realize. They may not get a good job because they are on a registry. This can force them to sponge off of society and government programs all because they cannot get a good job because they made a mistake when their brain was not fully developed. They will not be able to live normal lives and attend their own children's school functions just because they made a stupid mistake when they were 15.

The list goes on and on and is very unfair to juveniles that want to change and make something of themselves.

I ask that you please consider removing juveniles at a minimum from the registry or consider juvenile registrations only for those with multiple offenses. Kids that were experimenting and not knowing any better just don't deserve such a punishment.

Thank You

Danny Kitts